

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application for the reasons noted hereinafter is respectfully requested.

Claims 41-47 are pending in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 41, 46, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tiao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,863; hereinafter “Tiao”); and Claims 42-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiao in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,269).

In response to the rejection of Claims 41, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tiao, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection, and traverse the rejection as discussed next.

Independent Claim 46 is directed to an illumination arrangement including, *inter alia*:

a solid state light source;

a light collecting, integrating and re-directing device configured to receive at least a part of emitted light from said solid state light source and to redirect said received light; and

a light coupling mechanism configured to improve coupling efficiency of said emitted light from said solid state light source to said light collecting, integrating and redirecting device,

wherein the light coupling mechanism includes a gap structure directly coupling the light collecting, integrating and re-directing device to the solid state light source, and the gap width of the gap structure is small in particular compared to the cross-sections of the solid state light source and the light collecting, integrating and re-directing device.

Independent Claim 47 recites substantially similar features as independent Claim 46.

Thus, the arguments presented below with respect to independent Claim 46 are also applicable to independent Claim 47.

Tiao is directed to an illumination device which includes a light source 200 including an array of multiple light emitting modules 202 and an array of taper light pipes 210. Tiao describes that the array of taper light pipes 210 include multiple light pipes 212. Tiao also describes that each taper light pipe 212 has a first end 212a and a second end 212b, and the first end 212a of each taper light pipe 212 is closely connected with each of the light emitting modules 202.<sup>1</sup> However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tiao fails to teach or suggest “the light coupling mechanism includes a gap structure directly coupling the light collecting, integrating and re-directing device to the solid state light source, and the gap width of the gap structure is small in particular compared to the cross-sections of the solid state light source and the light collecting, integrating and re-directing device” as recited in independent Claim 46.

Page 3 of the outstanding Office Action asserts that Figure 2A and column 3, lines 14-18 of Tiao describes the above recited feature. Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 3, lines 14-18 of Tiao merely describe:

Therefore, light emitted from each light emitting module 202 is collected by a corresponding taper light pipe 212. While traveling through the taper light pipe 212, the light has being uniformized and emitted from the second end 212b with a narrowed angle.

Thus, the above portion of Tiao is completely silent on a gap structure behind the second ends 212b. Column 3, lines 18-21 of Tiao further describes that these second ends 212b are ***disposed at*** the wider end of the taper light pipe 212. However, a general wording “is disposed at” does not give any information on how the light path is in fact arranged.

Nothing to the contrary can be derived from Figure 2A of Tiao, as Figure 2A of Tiao only shows a schematic arrangement of the components in order to better illustrate the several components. Otherwise, the “gap” shown between the light source 200 and the light pipes

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<sup>1</sup> See column 3, lines 1-14 of Tiao.

212 would also not comply with the description in column 3, lines 11-13 which states the “first end 212a of each taper light pipe 212 is *closely connected* with each of the light emitting modules 202.” (Emphasis added.)

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 46 and 47 (and all claims depending thereon) patentably distinguish over Tiao.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 41, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tiao be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 42-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiao in view of Li, Applicants note that Claims 42-45 are dependent on independent Claim 46, and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Li fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Tiao.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 42-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiao in view of Li be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding ground for rejection has been overcome and that Claims 41-47 patentably define over the prior art. Claims 41-47 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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